

Patent No. 6,324,796
Replace. Prelim. Amend. dated Dec. 2, 2004
Reissue Application

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A decking system for placement on a subassembly, the subassembly having at least two spaced apart joists, said system comprising:

(a) a plurality of elongated tubular elements for placement in lateral interlocking engagement with each other transversely of and spanning the distance between the joists;

(b) each of said plurality of elements having a top portion, a bottom portion, and first and second side walls connecting said top and bottom portions;

(c) [(d)] wherein said top portion extends laterally beyond said first side wall and has formed thereon a downwardly extending longitudinal flange, and wherein said bottom portion extends laterally beyond said second side wall and has formed thereon an upwardly extending longitudinal wall defining an upwardly opening channel adjacent said second side wall adapted to receive therein in watertight relation said downwardly extending longitudinal flange, said bottom portion having formed therein a plurality of apertures proximate [intermediate said second side wall and] said upwardly extending longitudinal wall, adapted for the insertion of fasteners there through for engagement with said joists further comprising at least one internal wall extending between said top and bottom portion; and,

(d) [(c)] a surface tread formed on the exterior of said top portion comprising a series of longitudinally extending lands and crests including parallel major and minor lands and crests.

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said major lands overlying at least said first side wall and said at least one internal wall and separated by major crests, said major crests [crest] having formed thereon said minor crests and minor lands.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A decking system for placement on a subassembly, the subassembly having at least two spaced apart joists, said system comprising:

(a) a plurality of elongated tubular elements for placement in lateral interlocking engagement with each other transversely of and spanning the distance between the joists;

(b) each of said plurality of elements having a top portion, a bottom portion, and first and second side walls connecting said top and bottom portions;

(c) wherein said top portion extends laterally beyond said first side wall and has formed thereon a downwardly extending longitudinal flange, and wherein said bottom portion extends laterally beyond said second side wall and has formed thereon an upwardly extending longitudinal wall defining an upwardly opening channel adjacent said second side wall adapted to receive therein in watertight relation said downwardly extending longitudinal flange, said bottom portion having formed therein a plurality of apertures proximate [intermediate said second side wall and] said upwardly extending longitudinal wall, adapted for the insertion of fasteners there through for engagement with said joists and wherein said flange is defined by elongated opposing flange walls each of said flange walls having a pair of spaced apart longitudinally extending ribs and wherein said second side wall and said longitudinal wall have a pair of cooperatively spaced apart longitudinally extending ribs adapted to engage said flange wall ribs and form a moisture seal there along.

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Claim 10 (currently amended): A decking system for placement on a subassembly, the subassembly having at least two spaced apart joists, said system comprising:

(a) a plurality of elongated tubular elements for placement in lateral interlocking engagement with each other transversely of and spanning the distance between the joists;

(b) each of said plurality of elements having a top portion, a bottom portion, and first and second side walls connecting said top and bottom portions;

(c) wherein said top portion extends laterally beyond said first side wall and has formed thereon a downwardly extending longitudinal flange, and wherein said bottom portion extends laterally beyond said second side wall and has formed thereon an upwardly extending longitudinal wall defining an upwardly opening channel adjacent said second side wall adapted to receive therein in watertight relation said downwardly extending longitudinal flange, said bottom portion having formed therein a plurality of apertures proximate [intermediate said second side wall and] said upwardly extending longitudinal wall, adapted for the insertion of fasteners there through for engagement with said joists; and,

(d) a surface tread formed on the exterior of said top portion comprising a series of [longitudinally extending] lands and crests including parallel major and minor lands and crests, said major lands overlying at least said first side wall and separated by major crests, said major crests ~~crest~~ having formed thereon said minor crests and minor lands.